



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Vice Operation Results in Ten Prostitution Arrests

Howard County police have charged 10 people with engaging in prostitution during an undercover operation in Jessup. Vice detectives and female officers worked Thursday evening to identify suspects soliciting prostitutes along Route 1.

Female officers in plain clothes stood in areas targeted by citizen complaints to determine whether they would be approached and offered money for sex. Suspects who approached the female officers and made such offers were arrested for solicitation of prostitution.

The following suspects were arrested and charged with solicitation of prostitution:

Rafael Rios Marin, 37, of Laurel
Wilson Joel Morales Alvarez, 32, of Laurel
Melquin Portillo Ochoa, 20, of Columbia
Aleman Jose Alcides Hernandez, 20, of Columbia
Ibrahim Samura, 26, of Jessup
Arthur Lee Warren Jr., 43, of Nottingham
Christopher Lanehart, 25, of Laurel
Edward Witherspoon, 49, of Columbia

During the operation a man approached an undercover female officer, identified himself as a “pimp” and inquired about prostitution prices in the area. He left, returned with a woman and walked her to Route 1. A male undercover officer made contact with the woman and she solicited him for prostitution. The woman and man both were arrested:

Geraldine Felcidad Brooks, 20, of no fixed address was charged with one count of prostitution. Harold Chip Hamilton, 48, of Upper Marlboro, was charged with running a prostitution business, general prostitution and possession of marijuana.

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